



USAID
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UKRAINE

“Partnership for the Future of Alchevsk” Conference Held in Alchevsk

USAID and its partners supporting community development in the eastern city of Alchevsk held a conference on June 25 to review progress to date in the effort. The “Partnership for the Future of Alchevsk” initiative combines public and private resources to help improve Alchevsk city services and ultimately the life of local residents.



Volodymyr Choob, Mayor of Alchevsk (left), Vasyl Arbuzov, partnership coordinator from IUD (center) and Peter Argo, Acting Mission Director.

The initiative to provide community development support to the city came after the city's water and heating system suffered several catastrophic failures over the previous few years. Today, the success of the Alchevsk effort depends on three key elements: a commitment to corporate social responsibility and a desire to help the city of Alchevsk by the Industrial Union of Donbass through its Alchevsk Development Fund; a commitment by the Alchevsk municipal leadership and Mayor Choob to focus its work on economic and community development; and a commitment by USAID to provide programs and technical

expertise to support community and economic development.

The project is a comprehensive and integrated effort to stimulate community development and will serve as a model for other Ukrainian cities. USAID has brought a number of its current implementers to the project to address the challenges and resolve the problems facing the city of Alchevsk, all of whom reported on their work at the conference.

The Alchevsk initiative consists of five separate components: developing an economic development strategy to spur local and foreign investment; restructuring the municipal budgeting process away from line item budgeting and towards performance program budgeting; organizing and empowering civil society and non-governmental organizations in Alchevsk to make the needs and demands of Alchevsk's citizens known, and to monitor how city government is working; reforming and modernizing Alchevsk's heating and water treatment systems; and, community exchanges with U.S. towns to increase local knowledge of best international practices.

Private Sector Joins to Combat Human Trafficking in Ukraine

Representatives of international and Ukrainian private companies and leading NGOs participated in a June 18 conference to address issues associated with trafficking in human beings. The conference was organized by USAID's Countering Trafficking in Human Beings Project, which is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Ukraine.

Key speakers at the conference included representatives of Ukrainian and international companies who have demonstrated corporate

social responsibility and a willingness to collaborate with IOM on anti-trafficking campaigns and projects. Presentations by IOM corporate partners, Kyivstar, Joint Stock Company "Concern Galnaftogaz," Microsoft Ukraine, and Western Union Ukraine offered proof of the merits of private-public partnership in the field of combating human trafficking.



Mikhail Babirenko, Western Union Ukraine, explains how Western Union is working to assist IOM to combat trafficking.

In opening the conference, IOM Chief of Mission in Ukraine Jeffrey Labovitz noted that he is a firm believer in the efficacy and promise of private-public partnerships. "It is imperative that local civic organizations and socially responsible private sector representatives move to engender an atmosphere of mutual trust and establish productive working relations tasked with fortifying and enhancing the long-term national response to human trafficking in Ukraine."

A roundtable session titled "Combating Human Trafficking: Opportunities for Partnership," headlined the conference's afternoon agenda and featured IOM partner's explaining how cooperation with the private sector on the local level enhances the effectiveness of counter-trafficking projects.

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BELARUS

Health Fair Attracts Community in a Chernobyl-affected Area

About six hundred Berezhnoe residents, including a significant number of families with children, attended the first Health Fair, organized by USAID's "Family Health" project. The event took place on the premises of a secondary school in the village of Berezhnoe, Stolin District. Activities included a family sports competition organized by the village school; presentation of the Stolin Dialogue Center, which features group work with pregnant women and young mothers in Berezhnoe; and distribution of various information materials related to healthy life styles and safe living in the Chernobyl-affected areas.



A sampling of different vegetable salads.

By using special equipment available at the Health Fair, residents were able to measure levels of radiation in locally produced foodstuffs and accumulated internal body radiation (IBC measurements); as well as their blood pressure, body height and weight. An exhibition and sampling of healthy foods (juices and vegetable salads) produced by the enterprises of the Stolin District, and dissemination of recipes for healthy cooking at home, were other attractions of the fair.

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